

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

November 2013 Edition

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Welcome!

Fall is in full swing and the holidays are right around the corner. As we settle in to cooler temperatures, this newsletter is an opportunity for me to highlight upcoming events and opportunities on the horizon throughout District 2 and beyond.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with me by emailing

cball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Symphony of Lights!

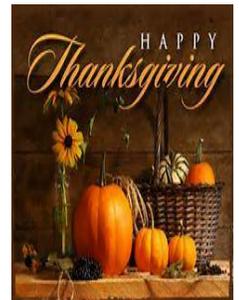


The Symphony of Lights is a spectacular display of 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations. It's a long-standing community tradition and a "must-see" during the holiday season. This breath-taking display will run through **Sunday, January 6, 2013**, remaining open 7 days a week, **6-10pm** including holidays except closed **December 31st** for the Midnight at 7 event.

The cost is \$20 for cars seating up to eight passengers; 9-24 passengers, \$45, 25 or more. \$125. For more info. call **410-740-7840**.

Happy Thanksgiving – County Offices Closed!

While you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends.... Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, community centers, athletic centers, activity rooms, historic sites, parks, senior centers and the landfill will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on **Thursday, November 28**. There will be no trash or recycling pick-up on Thanksgiving Day, and the County's holiday "slide" schedule will be in effect. For a complete explanation of the schedule, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/holidayschedule.htm. The landfill and parks will re-open on **Friday, November 29**; however, County Government offices, courts, senior centers and animal shelter will remain closed. While the community centers, athletic centers and activity rooms will be closed on Friday to the general public, they will be open for scheduled special or permit approved events. Parking meters will be free on November 28, but all parking regulations and fees will be in effect on November 29. Howard Transit and Central Maryland Regional Transit (CMRT) buses will not run on Thanksgiving Day, but will resume a regular weekday schedule on Friday.



The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, please call **410-313-2200**.

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Monday, December 2**.

Small Business Saturday!

Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to promote shopping small and local as well as helping small businesses prepare for the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. This **Saturday, November 30th**, consider supporting our local, participating small businesses in our community. For more details, visit http://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba_initiatives/small_business_saturday_2013



CA Market Analysis & Economic Development Services Study Public Meeting!

Join us on **Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7 p.m. at The Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring in west Columbia**, for the kick-off public meeting for the "Columbia Market Analysis and Economic Development Services" study. This study will evaluate current and projected demand for development in Columbia's village centers, as well as an interrelated analysis of the Dobbin Road/Snowden River Parkway/former General Electric manufacturing area.

The meeting will introduce the consultant team, provide an overview of the project, explain of the study process and objectives and include time for discussion with the meeting's participants. This will be the first of three public meetings for the study. For more details, visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/columbia-market-analysis-and-economic-development-services-study-public-meeting-tickets-9052910499>

Midnight Madness!

Join Howard County Tourism, the Ellicott City Business Association and the Ellicott City Restoration Foundation for the official tree lighting and opening of the 36th annual Midnight Madness on Friday, December 6, at 6pm. This is Historic Ellicott City's signature seasonal shopping event where you're invited to shop local and find that perfect gift at more than 50 shops, galleries and artist studios. Relax and grab dinner and drinks available all evening as stores are open til midnight. Overflow parking will be available to the George Howard Bldg and the Circuit Court and a free shuttle service will be provided to and from both locations. For more details, call 410-313-1900 or visit <http://visitellicottcity.com/midmad/>

Collision Avoidance Training!

The Howard County Police Department has begun conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT), an advance defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. The two day program (12 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and will provide practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. Driving skills addressed in the program are: evasive maneuvers, threshold/emergency braking, forward serpentine, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine and skid and off-road recovery.

Students must operate their own vehicle. Each student must successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver in order to receive a certificate of completion. The cost is \$95 for both classes. The last session will be held **December 6-7**. For details, call **Ms. Carolyn Bennett** at 410-313-3758.

Holiday Mart!

Howard County Recreation & Parks invites you to the 41st year of this favorite Howard County event! This event is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7, 2013 10am-5pm** at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville MD 21723**. Admission is \$4/person ages 5+. \$1 off coupon can be found online at www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=1219. Find seasonal gifts and merchandise created by 135 juried artisans. There are door prizes and a children's craft corner. Discerning shoppers know this is the place to find unique handcrafted items and home décor. You're sure to find something for everyone on your list and don't forget yourself!

Hot and cold beverages, lunch concessions and snacks available for purchase. For more info, call 410-313-4840, TTY: 410-313-4665. Inclement weather line 410-313-4452.

Inaugural Lighting of Historic Bollman Bridge!

For the first time ever, the County's Bollman Truss Railroad Bridge, an antique iron truss bridge and national historic landmark, will be lit for the season from December 7 through January 7, 2014. It will feature 12,500 energy efficient LED lights. Join local dignitaries and community members for a lighting ceremony at the bridge, followed by a community tree-lighting celebration at the historic Carroll Baldwin Hall Commons on **Saturday, December 7 5-7pm** at Historic Savage Mill, 8600 Foundry Street in Savage. Come enjoy a little "miracle" on Foundry Street. For details, call 410-313-2022.

PTA Council of Howard County Hosts Forum on Common Core!

Parents, Students and community members are invited to a Common Core forum on **Sunday, December 8th 5-8pm** at Reservoir High School in Fulton. The Council has invited state and local education official and national experts to speak on the new Common Core State Standards Initiative that were fully implemented by HCPSS this year.

Audience questions will also be accepted and answered during the forum. For details, visit www.ptachc.org.

Columbia Association's Sister Cities Exchange Program 2014!

The Sister Cities Summer High School Student Exchange is an annual international cultural and linguistic immersion program where Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French (level 3+) spend two weeks during July in one of Columbia's sister cities: Cergy-Pontoise in France or Tres Cantos in Spain. They are hosted by the family of a French or Spanish student. After returning to the U.S., the Howard County students host their French/Spanish counterparts in their home for another two weeks. There are organized sightseeing trips and group activities for the participants, both in Europe and here, and the students are accompanied by chaperones. The cost of the Exchange includes the program fee and the round trip airfare (purchased by CA). The program fee is \$700 for Columbia residents and \$850 for non-Columbia residents. The round trip airfare in summer 2014 will be between \$1,200 - \$1,500 per participant. There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents who qualify. The application deadline is **February 21, 2014**.

There are two upcoming information sessions for parents and students on Mon, Dec. 9 and Thu, Jan 16, from 7 to 8 pm, at CA Headquarters, located at 10221 Wincopin Circle in downtown Columbia. For an application or more information, visit ColumbiaAssociation.org/TeenExchange, or contact Laura Smit at 410-715-3162 or International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

1st FY15 Citizens' Budget Hearing!

On Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm, the County Executive will hold his first Citizens' Budget Meeting of the FY2015 budget cycle. Residents may submit testimony or sign-up to testify online beginning Wednesday, December 4 by logging on to www.howardcountymd.gov/budgettestimony.htm. Residents who do not wish to sign-up online, will still be able to sign-up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at 6pm. For more details, call Ray Wacks at 410-313-2077.

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board Solicits Comment on FY2015 Capital Budget!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks Advisory Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, December 18 at 7 p.m.** to consider the Department's Fiscal Year 2015 "Draft" Capital Budget, and the Fiscal Year 2016-2024 "Draft" Capital Improvement Program for the acquisition and development of park and recreation lands. The hearing will take place in the Conference Room at Recreation & Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia.

Residents may sign-up online to speak at the hearing beginning Wednesday, December 4 by visiting www.howardcountymd.gov/publiccomment.htm. From the same link, residents will also have the option to provide online testimony. Additionally, beginning December 4, the "draft" FY2015 Capital Budget will be available online at www.howardcountymd.gov/publiccomment.htm or by calling 410-313-4685.

An interpreter for people who are deaf or hard of hearing will be available if requested seven working days prior to the meeting. Please call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400 (voice) or use Relay at 7-1-1, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information about the public hearing, please call 410-313-4700.

Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services Open House & Annual Holiday Train Garden!

The Department will hold its 16th annual holiday train display **November 30th-January 1st** (closed December 25). Wed-Fri 6:30-8:30pm and Sat-Sun 11am-8:30pm at the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, Station #2, 4150 Montgomery Rd in Ellicott City. Admission is FREE but donations are welcome. New, unwrapped toys for needy children are being collected Dec 1-24 and can be dropped off at the Train Garden or any HC Fire Station. To schedule a group tour, call 410-313-2036. OPEN Christmas Even 11am-4pm. CLOSED Christmas Day; OPEN New Year's Eve and Day 11am-8:30pm.

CA Pathway App Available!

It is now even easier than ever for Columbia residents to enjoy the community's signature 93.5-mile pathway system. Columbia Association (CA) is introducing two new tools for pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists: a smartphone app for iPhone and Android users; and pathway signage, the first of which has been installed between Lake Kittamaquundi and Wilde Lake.

The smartphone app is free and can be downloaded at <http://www.columbiaassociation.org/content/getinformed/CA/CApath.cfm> or by searching your app store for "CA Pathways." Its map shows pathways, sidewalks, tunnels, playgrounds and tot lots, parks, playing fields, wooded areas, CA facilities, buildings and even golf course fairways. Speak-up, visit InspireColumbia.com and share your views on a number of topics of interest to Columbia residents.

Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2013-2014!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed online at www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm

Alpha Ridge Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 22
Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 5 & 12
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 15
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 16 & 29
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	January 9 & 23, February 20
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 30; February 6
West Friendship Park (Wounded Soldiers Hunt)	
Bow & Shotgun	December 11; February 26

CA Seeks Public Feedback on Comprehensive Plan to Serve Older Adults!

For more than a year, a Columbia Association (CA) has been developing a Comprehensive Plan for Serving the Older Adult Community. Public meetings have been scheduled to gather community feedback and will be held: **Monday, January 13, 2014** at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Ln in Wilde Lake Village Center. The first session is scheduled 10am-12pm; second session will be held 5-7pm with the same content presented at both meetings.

For more information, visit <http://www.columbiaassociation.org/content/getinvolved/adults/olderadults/index.cfm> or call David Greisman at 410-423-4103 or email at David.Greisman@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Council Passed Revised Watershed Protection & Restoration Fee!

On July 25th, the County Council passed Council Bill 38 amending the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee. This will go into effect 61 days after being signed by the County Executive. Residents can expect the following fees:

Residential Fee: \$15 per impervious unit (Includes Townhomes and Condo units)

Single Family Homes – Lot size .25acre or less: \$45

Single Family Homes – Lots over .25 acre: \$90

Commercial apartments: \$15/apartment unit

Non-residential: \$15 per impervious unit

Non-residential Fee (phase-in for the fee that exceeds \$10,000):

 FY14 property owner shall pay the greater of 50% of the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee

 For future fiscal years, property owner shall pay 100% of Watershed Protection and Restoration Fee

There are hardship provisions for residential and non-residential property owners that may reduce the total charge to no more than 20% of the annual property tax bill. There are also opportunities for credits and grants for certain best management practices and investments that benefit the public stormwater management system. This policy will be set by the Administration in the coming months. For questions, contact Josh Feldmark at JDFeldmark@howardcountymd.gov.

"Children On Board" Preschool/Child Care Information Fair!

Mark your calendars! Howard County's Dept of Citizen Services Preschool/Child Care Information Fair, "Children On Board" will be held **Sunday, January 26th 1-4pm** at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. Admission is free and fairgoers can gather info on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as the opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County's young children will also be on hand to provide information to interested parents. Those attending are asked to bring a nonperishable food items to donate to the HC Food Bank. For details, call **410-313-1940** or e-mail children@howardcountymd.gov.

Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the Third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest August edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

Hunger-Free Howard!

Across Howard County, faith-based communities, clubs, organizations, schools and associations are choosing to be a part of the Hunger Free initiative to support the Howard County Food Bank, administered by Community Action Council of Howard County. HOW IT WORKS: Each month, the group chooses 1 item that they would like to ask their members to bring to donate to the Food Bank. In January, it might be cereal; in February, a jar of peanut butter.

If you are part of an organization or as an individual who would like to mobilize members to donate food, please contact **Lisa Clossin**, Volunteer Coordinator at **410-313-0703** or email Lclossin@cac-hc.org.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

- 4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info
- Art Attack** Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**. Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.
- Columbia Teen Center** http://www.columbiaaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/teens/teen_center.cfm or 410-992-3726
- Howard County Library** www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22
- HC DrugFree Teen Advisory Council** www.hcdrgfree.org
- Voices For Change** <http://www.facebook.com/HCV4C#!/HCV4C/info> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to Howard County public school students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

What to Know if You See Snow?

Now that the weather is changing, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of Howard County's Department of Public Works:

Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at 410-313-4900, which is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Clearing Your Sidewalks

"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h)). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging – Maryland Access Point at 410-313-5980 to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call 410-313-5980.

Did It Snow On...

"Trash" Day? If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual – before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

"Recycling" Day? If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call 410-313-SORT (7678).

Please be patient...



Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm, provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at 410-313-7392 to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." The e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm, provides consumers with tips on avoiding scams and dispels misconceptions people may have about obtaining coverage from the Maryland health exchanges. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420.

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!



The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family makeUp, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 12th century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, click [here](#) or call 410-290-2620. The calendar of events is [online](#).

FREE Career Advancement and Computer Training for Adults!

Find a job or move up in your current position! This opportunity is **FREE** for low- to moderate-income residents of Howard County. Registration is **Mondays 10am-2pm** or by appointment and is located at Pinnacle Career Resources, Chartwell Professional Park, 8180 Lark Brown Road, Suite 301 in Elkridge. For more details, call Cindy at 410-799-1097.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, visit www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor. Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

Here is a list of the upcoming important events:

- **Thursday, December 12 8:30am-10am.** BBI Monthly Meeting. Learn about contracting at John Hopkins APL, which has a diversified portfolio of more than 600 programs, primarily Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, NASA and NSA sponsors as well as R&D. Cost is FREE to attend and will be held at The Other Barn.
- **Thursday, December 19th 12-1:30pm BBI Brown Bag:** "10 Key Strategies for Guiding Your Company Through a Game Changer". Listen to Mr. Doug Howard, President/CEO of Growth Team Strategies, a local consulting firm that provides financial and management consulting services to growing businesses, as he provides meaningful, usable information that will benefit any business owner, but particularly those with game-changer opportunities. This event is open to the first 25 registered BBI partners and will be held at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD 21046. To register, email company, name and title to KFew@howardcountymd.gov. Cost is FREE to attend and water and snacks will be provided.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a FREE ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/whatshouldidowith.htm> or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/recycling.htm>.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Looking for personal safety tips? Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. The Council is currently on recess for the month of August. A list of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax 410-313-3297.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.**

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open **8am-4pm** Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call **410-313-6444**.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
[District 2](#)
[Email Me](#)
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

"I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world."

~ *Jack Lew*